

## **Draft Goodwin Bequest Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, December 2, 2013, 4 pm**

**Beck Building; Conference Room C**

Attending: Fred Baruzzi, Superintendent; Martha Kelly, committee chair; Michelle Terry, staff committee member; Janet LaMarre, staff committee member

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 pm

### **I. Minutes for prior meeting (November 5, 2012) were approved, as follows:**

Two votes for approval: Mr. Baruzzi, Martha Kelly

Two votes to abstain: Ms. Terry and Ms. LaMarre

### **II. Eight-grade Trips to State Capitol**

A. Mr. Baruzzi reports these are taken annually in the fall, and are a good fit into the eight-grade curriculum. This past fall, the eight-grade group was given a capitol tour by Representative Haddad, who invited students to submit a piece of proposed legislature in the spring. Students participated in a supervised scavenger hunt at the State museum -- across the street from the Capitol Building.

Mr. Baruzzi suggested, and the committee agreed by sentiment, that if fourth-grade staff would like to organize a curriculum-based trip throughout Mansfield to learn about our town's governance, they should feel welcome suggesting such to the committee.

### **B. Student-driven Projects**

Two were reviewed, as follows:

1. Ms. Titchen's fourth-grade class requested fund to purchase about 4 to 5 VEX robotic kits, at \$299.99 each.

The committee declined the request. Robotic clubs are in all four schools, and clubs in all schools struggle for financing. While we admire the engagement and energy of robotics' club members, it was suggested that budget items could be re-prioritized, the budget could be redirected or a school principal could be approached.

2. Mr. Hendricks's third-grade class at Southeast petitioned to fund a project involving the Red Cross emergency disaster program. Because the request was to purchase products, the request was declined. However, it was noted that it is a good class project, and if he and his class can suggest another avenue to work with the Red Cross that doesn't involve buying products, that we would like to reconsider his proposal. If students wish to make posters to advertise their endeavor, make individualized kit bags to hold products or decorate containers for donations, etc., the committee would welcome funding such and reconsider this request.

3. Mr. LaPlaca, Chair of the Mansfield Board of Education, verbally requested that the Committee consider a request to donate funds to our town's human services department, our local outreach program to those in need. The request was denied because it did not fit into the paradigms of the Goodwin Bequest Committee.

Letters will be sent regarding the outcome of both proposed requests. Mrs. Kelly emailed Mr. LaPlaca regarding the committee's decision regarding his proposal.

### **III. New Business**

A. The fund balance is \$8,605.15

B. New Student Applications were reviewed in Old Business, II. B.

C. Continued Support of Eight-grade Trips to the State Capitol: It was agreed that this has been successful; each trip costs around \$500 for buses. There are no other expenses attributed to each trip.

D. It was proposed that The Goodwin Bequest Fund Proposal Process wording be altered for clarity.

1. In the sixth paragraph, "field trips and travel" : must be related to civic curriculum.

2. It was suggested that listing approved projects might guide future proposals.

### **IV. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Kelly, Chair